

FRENCH 3RD CONDITIONAL SI CLAUSES



Third Conditional French «Si Clauses»

What is a si clause?

The word *si* means *if* in English. Si clauses, also known as conditionals or conditional sentences, are used to express what could happen if some condition is met. *Si clauses* indicate possibilities which may or may not actually happen. They refer to the present, past, and future.

Conditional sentences have two parts: the condition, or *si clause*, and the result clause which indicates what will happen if the condition of the *si clause* is met. The tense of the result clause depends on the tense of the *si clause*.

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In other words, the tense of the two clauses follow a pattern that cannot be modified.

Which tenses are used in the third conditional?

The *si* part of the clause must always be in the **plus-que-parfait** tense. The result clause must be in the **past conditional**.

Plus-que-parfait + Past Conditional

Third conditional *si clauses* suggest what someone **would have done** if a certain situation **had presented** itself. We use the same model in English.

Si tu n'avais pas mangé si vite, tu n'aurais pas eu mal au ventre.

If you had not eaten so fast, you would not have gotten a stomachache.

Si nous avions travaillé ensemble, nous aurions réussi notre examen.

If we had worked (studied) together, we would have passed our test.

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Si ton portable ne s'était pas mis à sonner, on ne se serait pas fait gronder.

If your cell phone had not started ringing, we would have not gotten in trouble.

Si j'avais trouvé dix euros par terre, je t'aurais payé un café.

If I had found ten euros on the ground, I would have bought you a coffee.

Si vous ne vous étiez pas maquillé(e)(s), on vous aurait reconnu(e).

If you had not put on makeup, we would have recognized you.

Si elles s'étaient levées plus tôt, elles ne seraient pas arrivées en retard.

If they had gotten up earlier, they would not have arrived late.

Si tu n'avais pas fait la vaisselle, je ne t'aurais pas aidé à faire le dîner.

If you had not done the dishes, I would not have helped you make dinner.

Si nous nous étions marié(e)s, nous aurions organisé une très belle fête.

If we had gotten married, we would have organized a very nice party.

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Si vous aviez appris à skier, vous ne vous seriez pas cassé la jambe.

If you had learned to ski, you would not have broken your leg.

Si j'étais allé(e) en Espagne, j'aurais pu apprendre l'espagnol.

If I had gone to Spain, I would have been able to learn Spanish.

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